

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01

SAJ-01 /127 W

----- 004984

P 141259Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6217

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PLOS GR TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8394 (DTG 131605Z AUG 76(NOTAL)

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1. THE GREEK PRESS ON AUGUST 14 GAVE PROMINENCE TO THE

CALL OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
AUGUST 13 DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY CONVEYED THE SOVIET
GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE.
OTHER MAJOR SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE PRESS INCLUDED
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT BEFORE
THE UNSC YESTERDAY (WHICH WAS GIVEN STRAIGHTFORWARD
TREATMENT WITHOUT COMMENT), THE MEETINGS TODAY IN NEW
YORK BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE GREEK AND TURKISH
FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND THE RETURN TO PORT (IZMIR)
TOMORROW OF THE SISMIK FOR REFUELING AND RESUPPLY.
THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED ON THE STOPOVER HERE OF PRESI-
DENT MAKARIOS EN ROUTE TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT
COLOMBO.

2. ALL PAPERS GAVE LEAD STORY BANNER HEADLINE TREAT-
MENT TO THE CALL OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY ON
MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS
(BOTH THE MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER ARE AT THE
MOMENT AT THE UN IN NEW YORK). HOWEVER, PRO-MOSCOW
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR'S RIZOSPATIS CARRIED
THE MAIN HEADLINE "USA, NATO AND EC MEDIATION BEING
PREPARED" WITH A SMALLER SUBHEADLINE READING "USSR:
NO VIOLENCE NOR THREATS -- SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS
THROUGH PEACEFUL DISCUSSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT
OF HELSINKI." THIS WAS IN ESSENCE THE MESSAGE CONVEYED
BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, ACCORDING TO ALL PRESS REPORTS.
ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY
BULLETIN, ON WHICH ALL NEWS ACCOUNTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN
BASED, IN STATING THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE AEGEAN
DISPUTE, AMBASSA ULDATSOV RECOMMENDED THAT GREECE
AND TURKEY DISPLAY SELF-RESTRAINT AND SETTLE THE ISSUE
WITHOUT THE THREE OR USE OF FORCE. HE REPORTED SAID
THAT THE SOVIET UNION AS A COASTAL STATE WASH INTEREDED
THAT COMMUNICATIONS IN THE AREA NOT BE DISTURBED AS A
RESULT OF THECRISIS. THE USSR REPORTED SUGGESTED
THAT SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE
SOUGHT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN
ANKARA REPORTEDLY MADE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION TO THE
GOT.

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3. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION
IN EFFECT FAVORED TURKEY IN THE DISPUTE, INCLUDING
AVGHI, THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR
(ANTI-MOSCOW).IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL TO APPEAR SO FAR
ON THE EUBJECT, AVGHI ASKED WHY THE SOVIET UNION AVOIDE
SIDING WITH GREECE IN THE LIGHT OF TURKISH VIOLATION
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BUT INSTEAD TAKES A NEUTRAL
POSITION? WHY DOES THE USSR PREFER TO IGNORE THE FACT

THAT THE SISMIK HAS VIOLATED GREECE'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS
AFTER TURKEY HAD REJECTED JOINT RECOURSE TO THE INTER-
NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (UCJ) AS PROPOSED BY GREECE?
DOES NOT THE USSR REALIZE THAT ITS STAND STRENGTHENS
THE TURKISH POSITION AND LEAVES THE ROAD OPEN FOR THE
EFFORTS OF MR. KISSINGER FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF NATO WITH THE US AS THE MEDIATOR?
VGHI GOES ON TO NOTE THAT RECENTLY THE USSR ANNOUNCED
IT WOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF ITS TERRI-
TORY WATERS BY GREECE FROM SIX TO TWELVE MILES AS A
HOSTILE ACT.

4. MOST PAPERS ALSO GIVE COVERAGE TO A STATEMENT ISSUED
BY THE GOG IN REPLY TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY TURKISH
LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, FOREIGN MINISTER
CAGLAYANGIL, AND OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT. IN ITS STATE-
MENT THE GOG NOTES THAT IT HAS NEVER REFUSED TO DISCUSS
THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTE WITH TURKEY.
THE STATEMENTS BY TURKISH LEADERS THAT TURKEY WILL NOT
RESPECT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF
THE SEA, IF TURKISH VIEWS ARE NOT ADOPTED, NOR OF THE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL, NOR DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COURT OF JUSTICE, ARE PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE WORLD
COMMUNITY GENERALLY AND NOT JUST GREECE. THE STATEMENT
ALSO POINTS OUT THAT GREECE HAS NEVER CLAIMED THAT THE
AEGEAN IS A CLOSED GREEK SEA NOR HAS GREECE DENIED THAT
TURKEY, AS A COASTAL COUNTRY, ALSO HAS RIGHTS IN THE
AEGEAN.

5. ON HIS ARRIVAL AT ATHENS YESTERDAY MORNING, PRESIDENT
MAKARIOS PRAISED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT FOR THE SELF-
RESTRAINT AND CALM WITH WHICH IT IS HANDLING THE AEGEAN
CRISIS. THE ARCHBISHOP LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER
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CARAMANLIS AND INDICATED HE WOULD STOP OVER IN ATHENS
ON HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO IN TEN DAYS FOR A FURTHER
MEETING AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE GREEK PRIME
MINISTER. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL WATERS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS08413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760313-0889
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760853/aaaabucf.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 8394
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006